

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants submit this Amendment in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2001, and the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 29, 2005.

In this Amendment, claims 1-6 have been cancelled, claim 7 has been amended, and claims 8-26 have been added. The Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if re-written in accordance with 35 USC §112. Reconsideration of the patent application in view of the changes set forth above is hereby requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

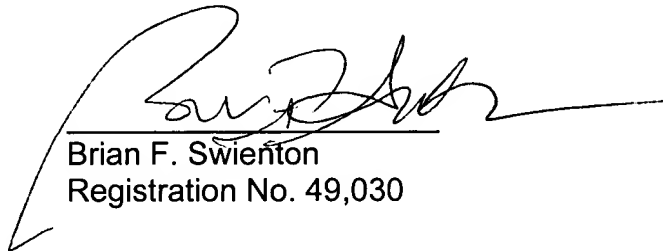
Claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

In response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6, and amended claim 7. By the above amendment it is respectfully submitted that all claims present in the application are in compliance with 35 USC §112, second paragraph. The Applicants note that such amendments are not intended to limit the claimed invention. Rather, such amendments are being made solely in response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC §112.

If for any reason direct communication with Applicant's attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is cordially urged to call the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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